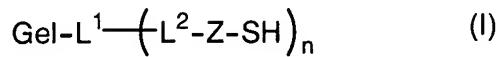


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A modified gelatin obtained by reacting (A) a gelatin and (B) a compound which contains a nitrogenous aromatic ring having a mercapto group to form a covalent bond with a reactive group in the gelatin, ~~an introduction wherein~~ the amount of the compound in the gelatin ~~being~~ is from  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol to  $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$  mol per 100g of the gelatin.
  
2. (currently amended): A modified gelatin represented by the following formula (I):



~~Where-~~ where Gel represents a gelatin,  $\text{L}^1$  represents a group selected from -C (=O) O-, -NH-, -N=, -N<, -O-, -S-, -NH-C(=NH<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>)NH- and -NH-C(=NH)NH- existing in the gelatin,  $\text{L}^2$  represents a divalent or trivalent coupling group, Z represents a nitrogenous aromatic heterocycle group, n is 1 or 2, and the ~~introduction-~~ amount of the modifying group represented by  $-\text{L}^2-\text{Z}-\text{SH}$  is from  $1.0 \times 10^{-6}$  mol to  $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$  mol per 100g of the gelatin.

3. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains is occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following

requirements (a) to (d), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 1:

- (a) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces;
- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (c) including at least 10 dislocation lines per grain; and
- (d) being tabular silver halide grains formed of silver iodobromide or silver chloroiodobromide having a silver chloride content of less than 10 mol%.

4. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains is occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (a) to (d), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 2:

- (a) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces;
- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (c) including at least 10 dislocation lines per grain; and
- (d) being tabular silver halide grains formed of silver iodobromide or silver chloroiodobromide having a silver chloride content of less than 10 mol%.

5. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains is occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (a), (d) and (e), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 1:

- (a) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces;
- (d) being tabular silver halide grains formed of silver iodobromide or

silver chloroiodobromide having a silver chloride content of less than 10 mol%;  
and

(e) being hexagonal silver halide grains having at least one epitaxial junction per grain on respective corner portions and/or side face portions and/or principal plane portions.

6. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains is occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (a), (d) and (e), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 2:

(a) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces;  
(d) being tabular silver halide grains formed of silver iodobromide or silver chloroiodobromide having a silver chloride content of less than 10 mol%; and  
(e) being hexagonal silver halide grains having at least one epitaxial junction per grain on respective corner portions and/or side face portions and/or principal plane portions.

7. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by tabular silver halide grains having an equivalent circle diameter of 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  or more, grain thickness of less than 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and parallel principal planes being (111) faces, and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 1.

8. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the

total projected area of grains are occupied by tabular silver halide grains having an equivalent circle diameter of 0.6  $\mu\text{m}$  or more, grain thickness of less than 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and parallel principal planes being (111) faces, and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 2.

9. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (b), (d) and (g), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 1:

- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (d) being tabular silver halide grains formed of silver iodobromide or silver chloroiodobromide having a silver chloride content of less than 10 mol%; and
- (g) having parallel principal planes being (100) faces.

10. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (b), (d) and (g), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 2:

- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (d) being tabular silver halide grains formed of silver iodobromide or silver chloroiodobromide having a silver chloride content of less than 10 mol%; and
- (g) having parallel principal planes being (100) faces.

11. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following

requirements (b), (h) and (i), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 1:

- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (h) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces or (100) faces; and
- (i) being tabular silver halide grains containing at least 80 mol% of silver chloride.

12. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (b), (h) and (i), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 2:

- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (h) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces or (100) faces; and
- (i) being tabular silver halide grains containing at least 80 mol% of silver chloride.

13. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (b), (h) and (i), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 1:

- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (h) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces or (100) faces; and
- (i) being tabular silver halide grains containing at least 80 mol% of silver chloride.

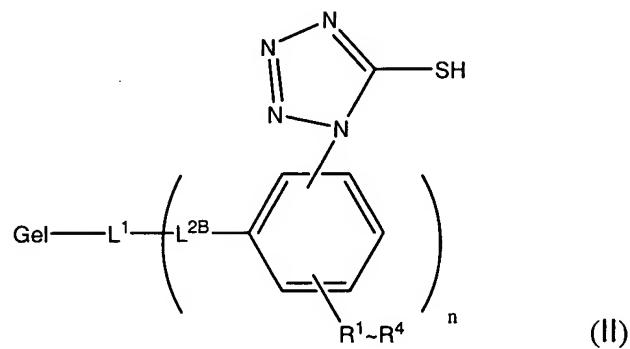
14. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic emulsion, wherein at least 50% of the total projected area of grains are occupied by silver halide grains satisfying the following requirements (b), (h) and (i), and the emulsion containing the modified gelatin according to claim 2:

- (b) having an aspect ratio being 2 or more;
- (h) having parallel principal planes being (111) faces or (100) faces; and
- (i) being tabular silver halide grains containing at least 80 mol% of silver chloride.

15. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic light-sensitive material, comprising the modified gelatin according to claim 1.

16. (withdrawn): A silver halide photographic light-sensitive material, comprising the modified gelatin according to claim 2.

17. (New) A modified gelatin represented by the following formula (II):



where Gel represents a gelatin L<sup>1</sup> represents a group selected from -C(=O)O-, -NH-, -N=, -N<, -O-, -S-, -NH-C(=NH<sub>2</sub>+)NH- and -NH-C(=NH)NH- existing in the gelatin, L<sup>2B</sup> represents a divalent or trivalent coupling group, each of R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, n is 1 or 2, and the amount of the modifying group indicated in parentheses is from 1.0 x 10<sup>-6</sup> mol to 2.0 x 10<sup>-3</sup> mol per 100g of the gelatin.

18. (New) The modified gelatin according to claim 1, having a molecular weight distribution obtained by measuring on the basis of the PAGI method, wherein a high-molecular-weight component having a molecular weight of about 2,000,000 or more is 3% to 30%, and a low-molecular-weight component having a molecular weight of about 100,000 or less is 55% or less.

19. (New) The modified gelatin according to claim 1, wherein the group of the compound, which contains a nitrogenous aromatic ring having a mercapto group that can form a covalent bond with the reactive group contained in the gelatin, is selected from the group consisting of an aldehyde group, acetal group, epoxy group, isocyanate group, activated halogen group, activated ester, ethyleneimino group, active olefin group, acid halide, sulfonic acid ester, acid anhydride, isothiocyanate group, carboxylic acid activated by a condensing agent, sulfonic acid activated by a condensing agent, and phosphoric acid activated by a condensing agent.

20. (New) The modified gelatin according to claim 1, which is used for a silver halide photographic light-sensitive material.

(Supports can be found in the specification, page 6, lines 13 to 20 )

21. (New) The modified gelatin according to claim 1, which is isolated and purified.
22. (New) The modified gelatin according to claim 2, which is isolated and purified.
23. (New) The modified gelatin according to claim 17, which is isolated and purified.